

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. In the Office Action, claims 1-12, 20-29 and 42-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0191543 by Buskirk et al. ("Buskirk") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,957,281 to Mann et al. ("Mann"). The Office Action identifies claims 13-19 and 30-41 as including allowable subject matter.

***Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103***

The rejections of the claims are mooted by the amendments presented above.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 13 and intervening claims 6 and 12. Previously presented claim 13 was indicated as including allowable subject matter. Since all limitations of claim 13 are now found in independent claim 1, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 6, 12 and 13 are cancelled and claims 7 and 14 are amended to depend from claim 1. In view of these amendments, each of claims 2-5, 7-11 and 14-21 are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 from which they depend is allowable.

Applicant has amended claim 22 to include all of the limitations of claim 30 and its intervening claim 27. Previously presented claim 30 was indicated as including allowable subject matter. Since all limitations of claim 30 are now found in independent claim 22, claim 22 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 27 and 30 are cancelled and claim 28 is amended to depend from claim 22. In view of these amendments, each of claims 23-6, 28-29 and 31-43 are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 22 from which they depend is allowable.

Claims 44-45 are cancelled without prejudice. In view of the amendments presented and the acknowledgement of patentable subject matter, Applicant requests withdrawal of all outstanding rejections.

Applicant amends the claims for the purpose of obtaining allowance of the claims acknowledged to include patentable subject matter. Applicant maintains the allowability of the claims as originally filed and intends to pursue the broader subject matter in a continuation application.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections having been addressed, and in view of the foregoing, the claims are believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. The Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if any points remain in issue which may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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